AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 to 14. (Canceled)

Claim 15 (New) A liquid fuel cell which comprises, as an assembly:

(a) a negative electrode which serves as a hydrogen electrode:

(b) a positive electrode which serves as an oxygen electrode counterposed to the negative electrode keeping a space therebetween;

(c) a permeable membrane to partition the space between the negative and positive electrodes;

(d) an electrolyte solution in contact with the negative electrode; and

(e) an oxygen source in contact with the positive electrode;

in which the negative electrode as the hydrogen electrode is made of an only surface fluorinated hydrogen absorbing alloy, said only surface fluorinated hydrogen absorbing alloy having a hydrogen absorbing alloy layer with a thickness in the range from 50 to 300 μm and a surface fluorinated layer thereon with a thickness in the range from 0.01 to 1 μm before or after hydrogenation and the electrolyte solution, which serves also as a fuel source, is an aqueous solution containing an alkaline compound and a substance capable of generating negative hydrogen ions.

Claim 16 (New) The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 15 in which the hydrogen absorbing alloy forming the negative electrode is selected from the group consisting of $LaNi_{4.7}Al_{0.3}$, $MmNi_{0.35}Mn_{0.4}Al_{0.3}Co_{0.75}$, $MmNi_{3.75}Co_{0.75}Mn_{0.20}Al_{0.30}$, $Ti_{0.5}Zr_{0.5}Mn_{0.8}Cr_{0.8}Ni_{0.4}$, $Ti_{0.5}Zr_{0.5}Mn_{0.5}Cr_{0.5}Ni$, $Ti_{0.5}Zr_{0.5}V_{0.75}Ni_{1.25}$, $Ti_{0.5}Zr_{0.5}V_{0.5}Ni_{1.5}$, $Ti_{0.1}Zr_{0.9}V_{0.2}Mn_{0.6}Co_{0.1}Ni_{1.1}$ and $MmNi_{3.87}Co_{0.78}Mn_{0.10}Al_{0.38}$, in which Mm denotes a misch metal.

Claim 17 (New) The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 15 in which the substance capable of generating negative hydrogen ions contained in the electrolyte solution is a metal-hydrogen complex compound represented by the general formula $M_I^{+}[M_{II}^{3+}(H^{-})_4]$, in which M_I is an alkali metal element and M_{II} is an element of boron,

aluminum or gallium.

Claim 18 (New) The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 17 in which the substance capable of generating negative hydrogen ions is potassium borohydride, sodium borohydride or lithium aluminohydride.

Claim 19 (New) The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 15 in which the alkaline compound contained in the electrolyte solution is an alkali metal hydroxide.

Claim 20 (New) The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 19 in which the concentration of the alkali metal hydroxide in the electrolyte solution is in the range from 5 to 30% by weight.

Claim 21 (New) The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 17 in which the concentration of the metal-hydrogen complex compound in the electrolyte solution is in the range from 0.1 to 50% by weight.

Claim 22 (New) The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 15 in which the oxygen source is oxygen gas or air.

Claim 23 (New) The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 15 in which the oxygen source is an aqueous solution of a water-soluble oxidizing compound.

Claim 24 (New) The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 15 in which the permeable membrane partitioning the space between the negative and positive electrodes is a cation exchange membrane, anion exchange membrane or amphoteric ion exchange membrane.

Claim 25 (New) The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 15 in which the negative electrode has a layered structure comprising a substrate plate as a core and a cladding layer thereon made from the hydrogen absorbing alloy.

Claim 26 (New) The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 25 in which the cladding layer made from the hydrogen absorbing alloy on the substrate plate has a thickness in the range from 50 to 300 μm.

Claim 27 (New) The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 25 in which the fluorinated surface layer of the cladding layer made from the hydrogen absorbing alloy has a thickness in the range from 0.01 to 1 μm.